



2. (~~Twice-Three Times~~ Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave ~~of the elevator system~~, the tension member comprising:

- a plurality of individual load carrying ropes; and
- a common layer of polyurethane coating in which the ropes are embedded, maintaining separation of the individual ropes and resisting longitudinal movement of the ropes relative to one another,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the ropes of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

4. (~~Twice-Three Times~~ Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave ~~of the elevator system~~, the tension member comprising:

- strands of non-metallic material; and
- a polyurethane coating encasing the strands,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the non-metallic strands of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

13. (~~Twice~~ Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member comprising:

a load-carrying member; and

a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

16. (~~Twice~~ Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member comprising:

- a load-carrying member; and
- a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one, and

wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.

71. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

- a car;
- a counterweight;
- a traction sheave that is driven by a machine; and
- a tension member interconnecting engaged with the car and the counterweight, and the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side

of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising

a plurality of individual load carrying ropes, and

a layer of polyurethane coating in which the ropes are embedded, maintaining separation of the individual ropes and resisting longitudinal movement of the ropes relative to one another,

the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the ropes of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

72. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

a car;

a counterweight;

a traction sheave that is driven by a machine; and

a tension member interconnecting engaged with the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged with by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising

strands of non-metallic material, and

a polyurethane coating encasing the strands,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the non-metallic strands of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

74. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

a car;

a counterweight;

a traction sheave ~~having an engagement surface~~ driven by a machine; and

a tension member interconnecting ~~engaged with the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, with and being driven by the traction sheave,~~ the tension member comprising

a load-carrying member, and

a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on

the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

75. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

a car;

a counterweight;

a traction sheave ~~having an engagement surface~~ driven by a machine; and

a tension member interconnecting engaged with the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, with and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising

a load-carrying member, and

a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one, and

wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.